

STATE OF NEW YORK

4784

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 1, 2017

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction

AN ACT to amend the correction law, in relation to restricting the use of segregated confinement and creating alternative therapeutic and rehabilitative confinement options

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 137 of the correction law is amended by adding a
2 new subdivision 5-a to read as follows:

3 5-a. The use of segregated confinement, exclusion of certain special
4 populations, and length of time any person can spend in segregated
5 confinement shall be restricted in accordance with paragraphs (g), (h),
6 (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), and (n) of subdivision six of this section or
7 any other applicable law.

8 § 2. Subdivision 23 of section 2 of the correction law, as added by
9 chapter 1 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

10 23. "Segregated confinement" means the [~~disciplinary~~ confinement,
11 other than for emergency confinement as defined in subdivision thirty-
12 three of this section, or for documented medical reasons or mental
13 health emergencies, of an inmate in a special housing unit or in a sepa-
14 rate keeplock housing unit or any form of keeplock, or cell confinement
15 for more than seventeen hours a day other than in a facility-wide lock-
16 down. Special housing units and separate keeplock units are housing
17 units that consist of cells grouped so as to provide separation from the
18 general population, and may be used to house inmates confined pursuant
19 to the disciplinary procedures described in regulations.

20 § 3. Section 2 of the correction law is amended by adding five new
21 subdivisions 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 to read as follows:

22 32. "Special populations" means any person: (a) twenty-one years of
23 age or younger; (b) fifty-five years of age or older; (c) with a disa-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 bility as defined in subdivision twenty-one of section two hundred nine-
2 ty-two of the executive law, including but not limited to, for purposes
3 of mental impairment, persons with a serious mental illness as defined
4 in paragraph (e) of subdivision six of section one hundred thirty-seven
5 of this chapter; (d) who is pregnant, is in the first eight weeks of the
6 post-partum recovery period after giving birth, or is caring for a child
7 in a correctional institution pursuant to subdivisions two or three of
8 section six hundred eleven of this chapter; or (e) who is or is
9 perceived to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex.

10 33. "Emergency confinement" means confinement in any cell for no more
11 than twenty-four consecutive hours and no more than forty-eight total
12 hours in any fifteen day period, with at least one hour of out-of-cell
13 recreation for every twenty-four hours.

14 34. "Short-term segregated confinement" means segregated confinement
15 of no more than three consecutive days and six days total within any
16 thirty day period.

17 35. "Extended segregated confinement" means segregated confinement of
18 no more than fifteen consecutive days and twenty days total within any
19 sixty day period.

20 36. "Residential rehabilitation unit" means secure and separate units
21 used for therapy, treatment, and rehabilitative programming of people
22 who would be placed in segregated confinement for more than fifteen
23 days. Such units are therapeutic and trauma-informed, and aim to address
24 individual treatment and rehabilitation needs and underlying causes of
25 problematic behaviors.

26 § 4. Subdivision 6 of section 137 of the correction law is amended by
27 adding eight new paragraphs (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), and (n)
28 to read as follows:

29 (g) Persons in a special population as defined in subdivision thirty-
30 two of section two of this chapter shall not be placed in segregated
31 confinement for any length of time. Any such persons the department
32 would otherwise place in segregated confinement shall remain in general
33 population or be diverted to a residential rehabilitation unit. If a
34 person in a special population is placed in emergency confinement for
35 more than sixteen hours, he or she shall be allowed out-of-cell at least
36 four hours.

37 (h) No person may be in segregated confinement for longer than neces-
38 sary and never more than fifteen consecutive days nor twenty total days
39 within any sixty day period. At these limits, persons must be released
40 from segregated confinement or diverted to a separate secure residential
41 rehabilitation unit.

42 (i) (i) All segregated confinement and residential rehabilitation
43 units shall create the least restrictive environment necessary for the
44 safety of residents, staff, and the security of the facility.

45 (ii) Persons in segregated confinement shall be allowed out-of-cell at
46 least four hours per day, including at least one hour for recreation.
47 Persons in residential rehabilitation units shall be allowed at least
48 six hours per day out-of-cell for programming, services, treatment,
49 and/or meals, and an additional minimum of one hour for recreation.
50 Recreation in all units shall take place in a congregate setting, unless
51 exceptional circumstances mean doing so would create a significant and
52 unreasonable risk to the safety and security of other incarcerated
53 persons, staff, or the facility.

54 (iii) Persons in segregated confinement and residential rehabilitation
55 units shall: (A) receive at least comparable medical and mental health
56 care to general population, including obstetrical and gynecological

1 services, in a setting ensuring privacy and confidentiality; (B) have
2 their basic needs met in a manner comparable to general population, and
3 never have restricted diets nor any order restricting any basic need
4 imposed as a form of punishment; (C) if in a residential rehabilitation
5 unit be able to retain all their property with them; (D) have comparable
6 access to all services and materials as in general population; and (E)
7 be able to retain program materials, complete program assignments, and
8 continue upon return all uncompleted programs they were in prior to
9 placement in segregated confinement or a residential rehabilitation
10 unit.

11 (iv) Within ten days of admission to a residential rehabilitation
12 unit, an assessment committee comprised of program, rehabilitation,
13 mental health, and security staff shall administer an assessment and
14 develop in collaboration with the resident an individual rehabilitation
15 plan, based upon the person's medical, mental health, and programming
16 needs, that identifies specific goals and programs, treatment, and
17 services to be offered, with projected time frames for completion and
18 release from the residential rehabilitation unit.

19 (v) Residents in residential rehabilitation units shall have access to
20 programs and jobs comparable to all core out-of-cell programs in general
21 population. Such residents shall also have access to additional out-of-
22 cell, trauma-informed therapeutic programming aimed at promoting
23 personal development, addressing underlying causes of problematic behav-
24 ior resulting in placement in a residential rehabilitation unit, and
25 helping prepare for discharge from the unit and to the community.

26 (vi) If the department establishes that a person committed an act
27 defined in subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (j) of this subdivision while
28 in segregated confinement or a residential rehabilitation unit and poses
29 a significant and unreasonable risk to the safety and security of other
30 residents or staff, the department may restrict that person's partic-
31 ipation in programming and out-of-cell time as necessary for the safety
32 of other residents and staff. If restrictions are imposed in segregated
33 confinement, the department must still provide at least two hours out-
34 of-cell time. If restrictions are imposed in a residential rehabili-
35 tation unit, the department shall develop a new rehabilitation plan,
36 provide at least three hours out-of-cell time, and on each day program-
37 ming restrictions are imposed provide at least two hours of out-of-cell
38 one-on-one therapy with the resident and one hour of out-of-cell recre-
39 ation. The department shall remove all restrictions within fifteen days,
40 and may not impose new restrictions unless the person commits a new act
41 defined in subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (j) of this subdivision.

42 (vii) Restraints shall not be used when residents leave a cell or
43 housing area for on-unit operations, unless a resident was found at a
44 hearing to have committed an act of violence on the residential rehabil-
45 itation unit within the previous seven days or is currently acting in an
46 unacceptably violent manner, and not using restraints would create a
47 significant and unreasonable risk to the safety and security of other
48 residents or staff.

49 (viii) There shall be a presumption against the imposition of misbe-
50 havior reports, pursuit of disciplinary charges, or imposition of addi-
51 tional time in segregated confinement for individuals in segregated
52 confinement or residential rehabilitation units. The department shall
53 use other non-disciplinary interventions to address any problematic
54 behavior. No resident shall receive segregated confinement time while in
55 segregated confinement or a residential rehabilitation unit except where
56 it is determined pursuant to a disciplinary hearing that he or she

1 committed one or more act listed in subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (j)
2 of this subdivision while on the unit, and that he or she poses a
3 significant and unreasonable risk to the safety of residents or staff,
4 or the security of the facility.

5 (j) (i) The department may place a person in emergency confinement
6 without a hearing if necessary for immediately defusing a substantial
7 and imminent threat to safety or security of incarcerated persons or
8 staff.

9 (ii) The department is encouraged to use responses other than segre-
10 gated confinement in response to department rule violations. The depart-
11 ment may place a person in short term segregated confinement if it
12 determines, pursuant to an evidentiary hearing, that the person commit-
13 ted a department rule violation warranting such confinement and the
14 length of segregated confinement imposed is proportionate to the
15 violation.

16 (iii) The department may place a person in extended segregated
17 confinement or a residential rehabilitation unit only if, pursuant to an
18 evidentiary hearing, it determines the person committed, while under
19 department custody, or prior to custody if the commissioner or his or
20 her designee determines in writing based on specific objective criteria
21 the acts were so heinous or destructive that general population housing
22 creates a significant risk of imminent serious physical injury to staff
23 or other incarcerated persons, one of the following acts: (A) causing or
24 attempting to cause serious physical injury or death to another person;
25 (B) compelling or attempting to compel another person, by force or
26 threat of force, to engage in a sexual act; (C) extorting another, by
27 force or threat of force, for property or money; (D) coercing another,
28 by force or threat of force, to violate any rule; (E) leading, organiz-
29 ing, or inciting a serious disturbance that results in the taking of a
30 hostage, major property damage, or physical harm to another person; (F)
31 procuring deadly weapons or other dangerous contraband that poses a
32 serious threat to the security of the institution; or (G) escaping,
33 attempting to escape or facilitating an escape from a facility, or while
34 under supervision outside of such a facility, resulting in physical harm
35 or threatened physical harm to others, or in major destruction to the
36 physical plant.

37 (iv) No person may be held in segregated confinement for protective
38 custody. Any unit used for protective custody must, at a minimum,
39 conform to requirements governing residential rehabilitation units under
40 paragraphs (i), (l), (m), and (n) of this subdivision. When applied to a
41 person in protective custody, the criteria in subparagraph (ii) and
42 clause (A) of subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (l) of this subdivision
43 shall be that "the person still is in need of protective custody"; and
44 the criteria in subparagraph (iv) of paragraph (l) of this subdivision
45 shall be that "the person is in voluntary protective custody."

46 (k) (i) All hearings to determine if a person may be placed in short
47 term or extended segregated confinement shall occur prior to placement
48 in segregated confinement unless a security supervisor, with written
49 approval of a facility superintendent or designee, reasonably believes
50 the person fits the criteria for extended segregated confinement. If a
51 hearing does not take place prior to placement, it shall occur as soon
52 as reasonably practicable and at most within five days of transfer
53 unless the charged person seeks more time. All hearings shall at a mini-
54 imum comply with the standards of all department rules for disciplinary
55 hearings as of January first, two thousand eighteen. Persons at all
56 hearings shall be permitted to be represented by any pro bono or

1 retained attorney, or law student; or any paralegal or incarcerated
2 person unless the department reasonably disapproves of such paralegal or
3 incarcerated person based upon objective written criteria developed by
4 the department concerning qualifications to be an assistant at a hear-
5 ing.

6 (ii) On notification a person is to be placed in segregated confine-
7 ment and prior to such placement, he or she shall be assessed by rele-
8 vant licensed medical, social, and/or mental health professionals to
9 determine whether he or she belongs to any special population as defined
10 in subdivision thirty-two of section two of this chapter. If a person
11 disputes a determination that he or she is not in a special population,
12 he or she shall be provided a hearing within seventy-two hours of place-
13 ment in segregated confinement to challenge such determination.

14 (1) (i) Any sanction imposed on an incarcerated person requiring
15 segregated confinement shall run while the person is in a residential
16 rehabilitation unit and the person shall be discharged from the unit
17 before or at the time that sanction expires.

18 (ii) Within thirty days of admission to a residential rehabilitation
19 unit and every sixty days thereafter, the assessment committee shall
20 review each resident's progress and discharge a resident unless it
21 determines in writing through credible and reliable evidence that there
22 is currently a substantial likelihood that the resident will commit an
23 act listed in subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (j) of this subdivision.

24 (iii) Within one hundred days after admission to a residential reha-
25 ilitation unit and every one hundred twenty days thereafter, a rehabil-
26 itation review committee, comprised of correctional facility executive
27 level program, rehabilitation, and security staff shall discharge a
28 resident from a residential rehabilitation unit unless it determines in
29 writing, after considering the resident's oral statement and any written
30 submissions by the resident or others, that: (A) there is currently a
31 substantial likelihood that the resident will commit an act listed in
32 subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (j) of this subdivision, significant
33 therapeutic reasons exist for keeping the resident in the unit to
34 complete specific program or treatment goals, and remaining in the unit
35 is in the best interest of the resident; or (B) the resident has commit-
36 ted an act listed in subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (j) of this subdivi-
37 vision during the one hundred twenty days prior to the review.

38 (iv) If a resident has spent one year in a residential rehabilitation
39 unit or is within sixty days of a fixed or tentatively approved date for
40 release from a correctional facility, he shall be discharged from the
41 unit unless he or she committed an act listed in subparagraph (iii) of
42 paragraph (j) of this subdivision within the prior one hundred eighty
43 days or he or she caused the death of another person while under depart-
44 ment custody or escaped or attempted to escape from department or other
45 police custody and the rehabilitation review committee determines he or
46 she poses a significant and unreasonable risk to the safety or security
47 of incarcerated persons or staff, but in any such case the decision not
48 to discharge such person shall be immediately and automatically
49 subjected to an independent review by the justice center entity with
50 oversight responsibilities under section four hundred one-a of this
51 chapter, with timely notice given to the incarcerated person of the
52 submission of the case to the justice center and of the decision of the
53 justice center. If the justice center disagrees with the decision to
54 not discharge, the resident will be immediately released from the resi-
55 dential rehabilitation unit. If the justice center agrees with the deci-
56 sion to not discharge, the discharge procedures set forth in this para-

1 graph shall apply including annual reviews by the justice center of a
2 decision by the rehabilitation review committee to refuse to release a
3 resident, however, under no circumstances shall any such person be held
4 in the residential rehabilitation unit for more than three years unless
5 the rehabilitation review committee determines he or she committed an
6 act listed in subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (j) of this subdivision
7 within one hundred eighty days prior to the expiration of the three year
8 period and poses a significant and unreasonable risk to the safety or
9 security of incarcerated persons or staff.

10 (v) After each assessment committee and rehabilitation review commit-
11 tee decision, if a resident is not discharged from the residential reha-
12 bilitation unit, the respective committee shall specify in writing (A)
13 the reasons for the determination and (B) the program, treatment,
14 service, and/or corrective action requirements for discharge. The resi-
15 dent shall be given access to the programs, treatment and services spec-
16 ified, and shall be discharged from the residential rehabilitation unit
17 upon completion unless the resident has committed an act listed in
18 subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (j) of this subdivision during the
19 previous one hundred twenty days.

20 (vi) When a resident is discharged from a residential rehabilitation
21 unit, any remaining sentence to segregated confinement time will be
22 dismissed. If a resident substantially completes his rehabilitation
23 plan, he or she will have all good time restored upon discharge from the
24 unit.

25 (m) All staff, including supervisory staff, working in a segregated
26 confinement or residential rehabilitation unit shall undergo a minimum
27 of forty hours of training prior to working on the unit and twenty-four
28 hours annually thereafter, on substantive content developed in consulta-
29 tion with relevant experts, including trauma, psychiatric and restora-
30 tive justice experts, on topics including, but not limited to, the
31 purpose and goals of the non-punitive therapeutic environment and
32 dispute resolution methods. Prior to presiding over any hearings, all
33 hearing officers shall undergo a minimum of forty hours of training, and
34 eight hours annually thereafter, on relevant topics, including but not
35 limited to, the physical and psychological effects of segregated
36 confinement, procedural and due process rights of the accused, and
37 restorative justice remedies.

38 (n) The department shall make publicly available monthly reports of
39 the number of people as of the first day of each month, and semi-annual
40 and annual cumulative reports of the total number of people, who are (i)
41 in segregated confinement; and (ii) in residential rehabilitation units;
42 along with a breakdown of the number of people (iii) in segregated
43 confinement and (iv) in residential rehabilitation units by (A) age; (B)
44 race; (C) gender; (D) mental health level; (E) health status; (F) drug
45 addiction status; (G) pregnancy status; (H) lesbian, gay, bisexual,
46 transgender, or intersex status; and (I) total continuous length of
47 stay, and total length of stay in the past sixty days, in segregated
48 confinement or a residential rehabilitation unit.

49 § 5. Section 401-a of the correction law is amended by adding a new
50 subdivision 4 to read as follows:

51 4. The justice center shall assess compliance with the terms of, and
52 at least annually report on and make recommendations to the department,
53 legislature, and public in writing, regarding all aspects of segregated
54 confinement and residential rehabilitation units in state correctional
55 facilities pursuant to section one hundred thirty-seven of this chapter,
56 including but not limited to policies and practices regarding: (a)

1 placement of persons; (b) special populations; (c) length of time spent;
2 (d) hearings and procedures; (e) conditions, programs, services, care,
3 and treatment; and (f) assessments and rehabilitation plans, and proce-
4 dures and determinations made as to whether persons should remain in
5 residential rehabilitation units.

6 § 6. Subdivision 4 of section 45 of the correction law, as amended by
7 section 15 of subpart A of part C of chapter 62 of the laws of 2011, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 4. (a) Establish procedures to assure effective investigation of
10 grievances of, and conditions affecting, inmates of local correctional
11 facilities. Such procedures shall include but not be limited to receipt
12 of written complaints, interviews of persons, and on-site monitoring of
13 conditions. In addition, the commission shall establish procedures for
14 the speedy and impartial review of grievances referred to it by the
15 commissioner of the department of corrections and community supervision.

16 (b) The commission shall also assess compliance with the terms of, and
17 at least annually report on and make recommendations to the department,
18 legislature, and public, regarding all aspects of segregated confinement
19 and residential rehabilitation units in facilities governed by section
20 five hundred-k of this chapter, including but not limited to policies
21 and practices for both regarding: (i) placement of persons; (ii) special
22 populations; (iii) length of time spent; (iv) hearings and procedures;
23 (v) conditions, programs, services, care, and treatment; and (vi)
24 assessments and rehabilitation plans, and procedures and determinations
25 made as to whether persons should remain in residential rehabilitation
26 units.

27 § 7. This act shall take effect immediately.